

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 SSO-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 OES-09
DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 L-03 OMB-01 SP-02 NSCE-00
PA-01 ICAE-00 SS-15 /082 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8913

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ALSO PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, BR
SUBJECT: BRAZIL-US SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

REF: (A) STATE 225257 (B) BRASILIA 6537 (C) BRASILIA 6882
(D) BRASILIA 5166

1. SUMMARY. GOB IS HOLDING INTER-AGENCY MEETINGS TO DETERMINE ITS PRIORITIES FOR SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE. THESE WILL BE REFLECTED IN PROPOSED AGENDA WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE FROM GOB NEXT WEEK. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE PLANT HEALTH PROJECTS ARE TOP PRIORITY, ENERGY CONSERVATION WILL BE DISCUSSED BUT REFERRED TO JOINT GROUP ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, AND COMMODITY OUTLOOK INFORMATION DEFERRED TO A "MORE AUSPICIOUS TIME". FONMIN SEES SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AS ALREADY EXISITING UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND WILL ACCEPT NOTHING FURTHER THAN A MINUTE WITH ANNEXES OR PERHAPS A PROTOCOL FOR PROJECTS. EMBASSY BELIEVES ONE OF LATTER FORUMLA SHOULD SUFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS MET WITH FONMIN'S BASIC PRODUCTS DIVISION
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CHIEF PEREZ ON SEPTEMBER 6 TO DISCUSS SUBJECTT MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 20-21. PEREZ AGREED TO WORKING SESSIONS AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 20 AND MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 21. GOB DELEGATION WILL HOLD MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22 OPEN IN EVENT FURTHER TIME IS REQUIRED. EMBOFFS WILL MEET NEXT WEEK WITH CHAIRMAN OF BRAZILIAN DELEGATION, MINISTER PROENCA ROSA, CHIEF OF FONMIN'S

ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, TO FURTHER REVIEW AGENDA.

3. PEREZ SHOWED CONCERN THAT SOME PARTS OF USG ARE CONTINUING TO SPEAK OF SIGNING A HIGH LEVEL DOCUMENT SUCH AS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. THE FONMIN, WHICH HAS THE LAST WORD ON THESE MATTERS WITHIN THE GOB, HAS REPEATEDLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE CAME INTO EXISTENCE UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF FEBRUARY 21, 1976 WHEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND GEISEL "DECIDED TO ESTABLISH" THE SUB-GROUP IN THEIR JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 30, 1978. PEREZ EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT USDA HAD GIVEN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS A COPY OF A PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT "COMPLETE WITH ARTICLES" AT THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON JULY 5-6. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS PROPOSAL WENT BEYOND ANYTHING THE GOB HAD IN MIND. THE (COMMENT: EMBASSY ALSO CONCERNED THAT TEXT TO WHICH WE ALSO OBJECTED (SEE REFTEL D) WAS GIVEN TO MINAG OFFICIALS. END COMMENT.)

4. EMBOFF EXPLAINED TO PEREZ THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING SOME TYPE OF SPECIFIC DOCUMENT AGREED TO BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIALS AS MAY OCCUR UNDER SPECIFIC PROJECTS. WE MADE TWO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS: (1) A MINUTE OF THE MEETING WHICH COULD HAVE ANNEXES AS APPROPRIATE (E.G., TERMS OF REFERENCE, ON-GOING ACTIVITIES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROJECT PROPOSALS); (2) A PROTOCOL FOR PROJECTS (PROJECTS COULD BE ADDED TO THE PROTOCOL AS AGREED TO BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS). ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS AS WELL AS ALTERNATIVES WHICH WE MIGHT PROPOSE TO THE GOB IS URGENTLY NEEDED. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUB-GROUP (I.E., FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS, VENUE, COMPOSITON OF SUB-GROUP).

5. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH FONMIN AND MINAG, WE DETECT THAT LATTER'S ENTHUSIASM FOR WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS INITIALLY IS NOT ALWAYS SUPPORTED, AND IS ACTIVELY OPPOSED IN SOME INSTANCES, BY OTHER GOB AGENCIES. WHILE THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO COOPERATION ON PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECTS, EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON PLANT MEASURES. GOB WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY COOPERATION ON COMMODITY OUTLOOK INFORMATION UNDER THE SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE "FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TEN TO TWELVE MONTHS"; FONMIN CONSIDERS IT "AN INAUSPICIOUS TIME" TO EVEN DISCUSS SUCH COOPERATION SINCE IT VIEWS USG AS BEING LESS THAN FORTHCOMING IN EXISITING COMMODITY AGREEMENTS SUCH AS COFFEE. FONMIN INDICATES NO OBJECTION TO DISCUS-

TION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AT SEPT. 20-21 MEETING BUT
WILL RESERVE ITS FULL PARTICIPATION ON SUBJECT FOR JOINT
GROUP ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MEETING IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER
2-6 (SEE REFTEL D). MINAG REPRESENTATIVE WILL ATTEND
LATTER MEETING AS WELL.

6. GOB IS CLEARLY MAKING EFFORT TO COORDINATE ITS POSITION FOR
SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE MEETING, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO
ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS. EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY IMMEDIATE CABLE SPECIFIC INFORMATION
ON PROPOSALS FOR AGENDA, PARTICULARLY AS REFERRED TO IN ITEMS
D THROUGH F OF PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL A. SOME INDICATION OF
PRIORITIES WITHIN AS WELL AS AMONG ITEMS WOULD BE HELPFUL
TO EMBASSY IN PRESENTING CASE TO GOB FOR AGENDA PROPOSED IN
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REFTEL A. ITEMS OF LOWER PRIORITY ON BOTH SIDES COULD BE
HANDLED IN SIDE DISCUSSIONS WHERE APPROPRIATE; FONMIN HAS
ALREADY INDICATED INTEREST IN DOING THIS, REINFORCING ITS
IDEA OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF ITEMS ON THE FORMAL AGENDA.
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